GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:136
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
OPENING OF BORDER FOR TRADE
Ramadass Prof. M;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open North-East borders for trade;

(b) if so, the details and the time by which it is likely to be opened;

(c) whether it is not desirable to first solve the security issues such as influx of foreigners and subversive activities of underground organisations before opening the borders for trade;

(d) if so, whether North Eastern Council (NEC) will be involved in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a), (b), (c), (d), & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.136 REGARDING OPENING OF BORDER FOR TRADE TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST 2005.

(a)&(b): In the North Eastern Region, India has major portion of her border with Bangladesh, China and Myanmar. India does not have border trade agreement with Bangladesh. Government of Union of Myanmar and Government of People's Republic of China have border trade agreements with India. On the India-Myanmar border, a border trading point at Moreh in Manipur is already functional. On this border, another trading point at Zowakhathar in Mizoram has already been identified and was inaugurated early last year. In addition to existing trading points in Uttranchal and Himachal Pradesh for India-China trade, Sherathang in Sikkim has been selected as site for a mart for border trade with China through Nathula Pass.

(c)to(e): While taking a view on opening of border trading points, various factors are taken into consideration, which include mutual interests of India and the neighbouring country concerned, infrastructure facilities available at the proposed border trading points, perceived economic benefits for the local people on both sides of the proposed border trading points and security situation in the area on both sides of the proposed border trading points. The recommendations of the State Government concerned on the locations of proposed border trading points on the Indian side are also kept in view. Consultation with North Eastern Council in the matter is not necessary.